



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

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JURY CONVICTS SAN ANTONIO MAN FOR THREE "TRUCK JACKING" INCIDENTS

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a federal jury in San Antonio today returned a guilty verdict against 42-year-old Travis Lee Houston for taking three motor vehicles by force on November 9, 2007.

In all, the jury convicted Houston on one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; three counts of taking a motor vehicle by force; and, two counts each of interference with commerce by robbery and using a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence.

The jury found that on November 7, 2009, Houston, a driver formerly employed by Grocery Supply Company of San Antonio, used a firearm to take control of two 18-wheeler company trucks in an attempt to steal mass quantities of cigarettes. One truck jacking took place in San Antonio; the other two in Austin. In San Antonio, the defendant hijacked a truck near Roosevelt and Interstate 10. After the driver told him that the cargo contained no cigarettes, Houston drove the stolen truck to Austin in search of another company truck loaded with cigarettes. The Austin incident occurred at a convenience store located at Interstate 35 and Slaughter Lane. When the driver of the second truck attempted to escape, Houston fired his pistol into the cab of the truck. Fortunately, no one was injured. The second truck ultimately crashed into a parked car. Unable to steal the truck, Houston fled to a construction site nearby. At that location, a driver of a cement truck noticed Houston and offered him assistance. According to the victim, Houston pointed a gun at him then drove away in the victim's cement truck. An Austin police officer stopped the stolen cement truck on a frontage road near Interstate 35 and Riverside Drive and arrested the defendant. Officers subsequently recovered a .38 caliber firearm and a ski mask the defendant discarded along the frontage road of Interstate 35.

Houston, who remains in federal custody, faces up to ten years imprisonment on the felon in possession charge; up to 15 years imprisonment per carjacking charge; up to 20 years imprisonment per interference with commerce charge; and, up to 10 years imprisonment on the use of a firearm to further a crime of violence charge.

These cases were investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with the San Antonio and Austin Police Departments. Assistant United States Attorneys Bettina Richardson and David Counts are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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